Guidelines for air rights to private airlines

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently framed the guidelines for allocation of air bilateral rights to private airlines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the DGCA's guidelines the entitlements on foreign routes could also be reviewed in case any of the eligible airlines try to corner the maximum international sectors by cutting down their domestic operations; and

(c) if so, what due consideration Government are giving to AI and IA before allotment of rights to private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines for allocation of traffic rights amongst Scheduled Indian Carriers, they are not permitted to reduce Available Seat Kilometers (ASKM) deployment in domestic sector once rights are allocated on international routes. The entitlements given to Scheduled Carriers may be reviewed in the event any of them reduces domestic operations after obtaining traffic rights on international routes.

(c) Due consideration is being given to the operational plans of Air India and Indian Airlines before allocation of traffic rights to other eligible Scheduled Carriers. Gulf routes have been kept reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines for a period of three years. On other routes entitlements have been granted to Air India and Indian Airlines based on the requests received from them and only the balance entitlements left thereafter have been allocated to the private airlines. While doing so due regard has also been given to the bilateral agreement with the foreign countries, slot allocation at the airports etc.

Filling up of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs

*4. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to fill-up the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and its subordinate offices;